

KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



ADVISORY GROUP MEETING SUMMARY

ADVISORY GROUP: RTA Steering Committee

MEETING DATE: November 18, 2013

LIAISON: Judy Halasek

NOTE-TAKER/CONTACT: Judy Halasek

ADVISORY GROUP MEMBERS PRESENT: Lindy Harmon – Committee Chair, Lena Wilson, Cheri Murrey, Carla Purcell, Kristen Perry, Johnna Puttoff, Janice Almasi, Nancy Hulan, Kim Willhoite, Kathi Haley, Johnny Collett, George Hruby, Kathy Garrett

Guests present:

April Pieper, Susan Cantrell, Melissa Murphy, Jo Davis, Jason Kendall, Judy Halasek

Agenda Item: Welcome, updates and introductions

Discussion/Action: Everyone introduced themselves, as many committee members had not met. Visitors also introduced themselves.

Key Questions/Concerns:

Agenda Item: Approve minutes of June meeting

Discussion/Action: Lindy Harmon stated that the minutes of the June meeting did not include the exact expenditures of the RTA fund, as stated by Charlie Harman.

Key Questions/Concerns: The minutes will be amended to include the following:

- \$15,617,000 goes to the grant
- \$85,000 is the RTA State Coordinate MOA salary and benefits
- \$2,197,000 goes to assist Low Performing Schools

For a total of \$17,899,000

Agenda Item: Report from Collaborative Center for Literacy Development

Discussion/Action: Susan Cantrell presented key findings and recommendations from the CCLD evaluation of the 2012/2013 Read to Achieve Program and addressed questions from the committee.

Key Questions/Concerns:

- The Committee was interested in the fact that students who stay in intervention longer do more poorly in the long run on state assessments. They noted this- some wanted to know which programs these students were in, vs. if they were in schools with full time interventionists or part time and if this made a difference (Susan didn't have this information).
- There was some discussion about the table in the report about what interventions seemed to yield greater MAP scores.
- The Committee commented on the fact that schools with grants addressed the needs of more students than schools without grants and schools with grants seemed to have better intervention plans than schools without grants.

Agenda Item: ESEA waiver white paper

Discussion/Action: Johnny Collette discussed the impact of the ESEA waiver and encouraged committee members to contact legislators concerning the waiver.

Key Questions/Concerns:

Agenda Item: Status of RTA grant

Discussion/Action: A draft of the proposed RFA was reviewed. The timeline for the RFA includes a release date of no later than December 16, 2013 and notification to districts on, or around March 24, 2014.

Key Questions/Concerns:

- A subcommittee recommended that an explanation of the terms *universal screener* and *diagnostic assessment* be in the RFA and a more extensive definition of *highly trained teacher* be included.

- The subcommittee feels that insufficient data is available at this time to make an informed decision about the effectiveness of the interventions that are the most widely implemented in the state. The three programs currently listed in the RFA are not recommended by the Committee. George Hruby will compile a list of the top five programs, as vetted by What Works Clearinghouse, and send to KDE by November 21. The Committee will recommend that the RFA support these programs for the new grant applications.
- The subcommittee suggested a weighted scoring for currently funded schools that could show success with their implementation. A steam lined application for those schools was discussed and KDE advised that, as this is a new RFA and not a Round 5 continuation, all schools will be required to complete the same application. The Committee then recommended that 25 bonus points be awarded to schools that can verify success of their current RTA program.

Agenda Item: Election of Steering Committee Chair

Discussion/Action: Lena Wilson nominated Lindy Harmon as chair of the Committee for 2014. The motion was seconded by Janice Almasi.

Key Questions/Concerns:

Agenda Item: KPREP Data

Discussion/Action: Judy Halasek presented a list of third grade KPREP scores from the entire state and a chart of trend data for all RTA schools from 2007 – 2013.

Key Questions/Concerns:

- There was some discussion about the drop in test scores between the last year of the previous testing cycle and the first year of KPREP. It was understood that there is really no ability to compare the two, as the assessments are very different from one another.
- The Committee was interested in looking at which RTA schools had low third grade KPREP reading scores. There was some question about which reading intervention programs these schools were using.

Lindy Harmon adjourned the meeting at 12:25 pm ET.